

Procedure (18 CFR 385.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Take further notice that, pursuant to the authority contained in and subject to the jurisdiction conferred upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by Sections 7 and 15 of the Natural Gas Act and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a hearing will be held without further notice before the Commission or its designee on this application if no motion to intervene is filed within the time required herein, if the Commission on its own review of the matter finds that a grant of the certificate and/or permission and approval for the proposed abandonment are required by the public convenience and necessity. If a motion for leave to intervene is timely filed, or if the Commission on its own motion believes that a formal hearing is required, further notice of such hearing will be duly given.

Under the procedure herein provided for, unless otherwise advised, it will be unnecessary for applicant to appear or be represented at the hearing.

G. Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-18700 Filed 7-28-95; 8:45 am]
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[Docket Nos. RP95-326-000 and RP95-242-000]

Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America; Notice of Continuing Technical Conference

July 25, 1995.

Take notice that the technical conference in this proceeding which was convened on July 13, 1995, will continue on Thursday, August 3, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., in the Commission Meeting Room at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 825 North Capitol Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. All interested persons and staff are permitted to attend.

Lois D. Cashell,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-18669 Filed 7-28-95; 8:45 am]
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Western Area Power Administration

Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie Project—Proposed Firm and Nonfirm Transmission Service Rates for the Phoenix Area

AGENCY: Western Area Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Rates for Firm Transmission Service and Nonfirm Transmission Service for the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie Project Rate Adjustment.

SUMMARY: The Western Area Power Administration (Western) is proposing two rates for firm transmission service and a rate for nonfirm transmission service for the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie Project (AC Intertie).

The power repayment study indicates that the proposed rates for firm and nonfirm transmission service are necessary because of increases in operation and maintenance expenses, and the anticipated decrease in current marketable capacity from the 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines. The proposed rates for firm and nonfirm transmission service will supersede the existing rates that became effective August 1, 1993, and were extended on May 17, 1995 (60 FR 26433) until October 1, 1996. The proposed rates for firm and nonfirm transmission service are to become effective January 1, 1996.

The existing firm transmission service rate for the 230/345-kV transmission lines is \$4.46 per kilowatt per year (kW/year) and the existing nonfirm transmission service rate is 1.00 mills per kilowatthour (mills/kWh).

The proposed firm transmission service rate for the 230/345-kV transmission lines is \$7.37/kW/year; the

proposed rate for the 500-kV transmission lines is \$16.00/kW/year; and the proposed combined nonfirm transmission service rate is 2.11 mills/kWh.

The Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department of Energy (DOE), approved the existing rates on an interim basis for firm and nonfirm transmission service on July 14, 1993. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) confirmed and approved the rates on a final basis for firm and nonfirm transmission service on March 24, 1994 (66 FERC ¶62,180). The existing rates were designed to recover all annual costs and investment repayment of both the existing 230/345-kV lines and the new 500-kV lines. The existing rates for firm and nonfirm transmission service were placed in effect on August 1, 1993, and consisted of a two-step rate adjustment process. Step one of the firm transmission service rate was approved to be in effect through September 30, 1995, and step two of the existing rates was to become effective on October 1, 1995, and continue through July 31, 1996.

During the last AC Intertie rate adjustment process (WAPA-56), the Colorado River Commission of Nevada, the Arizona Power Authority, the Arizona Subcontractor Group, the Arizona Power Pooling Association, Inc., and the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District filed a Motion to Intervene and Protest FERC confirmation and approval of the AC Intertie rates described in Rate Order No. WAPA-56. On December 28, 1993, Western filed a Stipulation Agreement signed by Western and these customers in which the intervenors withdrew their protests and Western agreed to re-examine the issues raised as well as commence a new rate adjustment proceeding during fiscal year 1995.

Western has re-examined the issues raised during the last rate adjustment process along with the current issues regarding the rate impact from the additional capacity. Due to customer request, Western has developed and is proposing two firm transmission service rates and a nonfirm transmission service rate for the AC Intertie Project to supersede step one of the existing rates which were extended for firm and nonfirm transmission service. The major difference between step two of the existing rates and the proposed rates is the separate marketing and rate-setting design of the 500-kV system.

In response to additional AC Intertie customer requests, Western is proposing a rate design for the firm transmission

service that consists of (1) a rate for the firm transmission service from the existing 230/345-kV transmission lines and (2) a rate for the firm transmission service of the 500-kV transmission lines. The firm transmission service rate for the 500-kV transmission lines is designed to recover all annual costs for repayment of the new investment. Based upon its studies, Western expects that the marketable capacity used in the rate calculation for the 500-kV transmission

lines to be 668 megawatts (MW). Western is proposing a firm transmission service rate of \$7.37/kW/year for the 230/345-kV system and a firm transmission service rate of \$16.00/kW/year for the 500-kV system.

Western is also proposing a nonfirm transmission service rate of 2.11 mills/kWh for both the 230/345-kV and 500-kV system that will supersede the existing nonfirm transmission service rate of 1.00 mills/kWh. The non-firm

transmission service rate combines the rate of 1.40 mills/kWh for the 230/345-kV system and a rate of 3.04 mills/kWh for the 500-kV system for a combined rate of 2.11 mills/kWh.

The following table displays the existing rates, the step two of the previously approved rates, the proposed AC Intertie 230/345-kV transmission system rates, and the proposed 500-kV transmission system rates:

Type of service	Existing rates 230/345-kV system extended through 10/01/1996	Existing rates step two 230/345/500-kV system 07/31/98	Proposed rates 230/345-kV system 01/01/1996 through 09/30/2000	Proposed rates 500-kV system 01/01/1996 through 09/30/2000
Firm Transmission Service	\$4.46/kW/year	\$8.01/kW/year	\$7.37/kW/year	\$16.00/kW/year.
Combined Nonfirm Transmission Service	1.00 mills/kWh	1.52 mills/kWh	2.11 mills/kWh	2.11 mills/kWh.

The proposed rates for the 500-kV transmission lines are based on investments, an estimated marketable capacity, and a percentage distribution of the projected expenses and revenues. The final marketable capacity that will be contracted is not yet determined. Should there be contracts for more than the estimated marketable capacity of 668 MW, Western would foresee an increase in firm revenue, thereby, providing for a decrease to the proposed rate of \$16.00/kW/year. Conversely, if less than the estimated capacity is contracted, Western would increase the proposed rate of \$16.00/kW/year to ensure that the revenue requirement is satisfied. The proposed rate for the 230/345 kV system represents an 8.68 percent decrease from the existing step two rate of \$8.01/kW/year. The non-firm transmission rate represents an increase of 39 percent from the existing non-firm transmission service rate.

Since the proposed rates constitute a major rate adjustment for transmission service, as defined by the procedures for public participation in general rate adjustments, as cited below, both a public information forum and a public comment forum will be held. After review of public comments, Western will recommend the final proposed AC Intertie rates to the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy (Deputy Secretary). If approved by the Deputy Secretary, the provisional rates would remain in effect on an interim basis until confirmed and approved as final rates by FERC.

DATES: The consultation and comment period will begin with the publication of this notice in the *Federal Register* and will end not less than 90 days later, or October 17, 1995, whichever occurs later. A public information forum will

be held at 1 p.m. on August 24, 1995, at Western's Phoenix Area Office, 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix Arizona. A public comment forum at which Western will receive oral and written comments will be held at 1 p.m. on September 18, 1995, also at Western's Phoenix Area Office.

Written comments regarding the proposed rates should be received by the end of the consultation and comment period to be assured consideration and should be sent to the address below.

ADDRESSES: For Further Information Contact: Mr. J. Tyler Carlson, Area Manager, Phoenix Area Office, Western Area Power Administration, P.O. Box 6457, Phoenix, AZ 85005, (602) 352-2521.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Transmission rates for the AC Intertie are established pursuant to the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*); and the Reclamation Act of 1902 (43 U.S.C. 371 *et seq.*), as amended and supplemented by subsequent enactments, particularly section 9(c) of the Reclamation Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h(c)), and section 8 of the Act of August 31, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 837g).

By Amendment No. 3 to Delegation Order No. 0204-108, published November 10, 1993 (58 FR 59716), the Secretary of DOE delegated (1) the authority to develop long term power and transmission rates on a nonexclusive basis to the Administrator of Western; (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates in effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary; and (3) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, to remand, or to disapprove such rates to FERC. Existing

DOE procedures for public participation in rate adjustments (10 CFR Part 903) became effective on September 18, 1985 (50 FR 37835).

Availability of Information

All brochures, studies, comments, letters, memorandums, and other documents made or kept by Western for the purpose of developing the proposed rates for transmission service are and will be available for inspection and copying at the Phoenix Area Office, located at 615 South 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85005.

Determination Under Executive Order 12866

DOE has determined that this is not a significant regulatory action because it does not meet the criteria of Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735). Western has an exemption from centralized regulatory review under Executive Order 12866; accordingly, no clearance of this notice by the Office of Management and Budget is required.

Environmental Evaluation

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; Council On Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and DOE NEPA regulations (10 CFR Part 1021), Western has determined that this action is categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement.

Issued in Golden, Colorado, July 18, 1995.

J.M. Shafer,
Administrator.

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